

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A chewable article for animals, such as household dogs and cats, the article being made from thermoplastically processable inulin or mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans ~~with thermoplastic polymers~~.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 12, in which the plasticizer is sorbitol or glycerol.

Claims 8-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in which the quantity of inulin and/or oligofructans present in the mixtures with thermoplastic polymers is between 10 and 20% by weight.

Claim 12 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in which the inulin and the mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers are rendered thermoplastically processable by extrusion at temperatures of between 80 and 200°C in the presence of water and/or a plasticizer containing hydroxyl groups.

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in the form of a bone ~~bones~~ for dogs.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New). A chewable article for animals, the article being made from a mixture of thermoplastically processable inulin and a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer.

Claim 17 (New). The chewable article according to claim 16, in which the biodegradable thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of starch in its natural, chemically modified, or physically modified forms, aliphatic polyesters, ethylene vinyl alcohol or vinyl acetate copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol, aromatic aliphatic copolymers, polyamides, and polyester polyamide copolymers.

Claim 18 (New). The chewable article according to claim 16, wherein the inulin present in the mixture is between 10% and 20% by weight.

Claim 19 (New). The chewable article according to claim 17, wherein the inulin present in the mixture is between 10% and 20% by weight.

Claim 20 (New). A chewable article according to claim 16, in the form of a bone for dogs.

Claim 21 (New). A chewable article according to claim 17, in the form of a bone for dogs.

Claim 22 (New). A chewable article according to claim 1, wherein the oligofructans are produced by partial enzymatic hydrolysis of inulin.